

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 8

August 2022

This is our newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories and art of sustainable beekeeping. Articles are contributed by SCBA members.

SCBA August General Meeting

Date: August 8, 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 (pst)

We are pleased to have Tora Rocha join us in August to discuss planting for pollinators. Tora is the co-founder of the Pollinator Posse, a group dedicated to education and outreach about the importance of native bees. She will talk to us about creating pollinator gardens and feeding the bees during dearth with a focus on drought tolerant plants.

With Covid numbers rising again, we'll hold this meeting exclusively over Zoom.

Join Zoom meeting

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXFsMDNaQkRGUT09>
ID: 865 1425 4718
Password: 768368

This Zoom link is a recurring link and will be used for ALL general meetings for 2022.

President's Message

Happy August Beeks!



Well, here I am again. As of July 1st, I am your president for the remainder of 2022.

Let me begin by extending a huge thank you to Mohammed Ibrahim, our 1st VP, for stepping up and covering the president's position since January. He

has worked very hard these past six months to keep our association moving forward, despite the lack of an official president. I'm sure you will agree that he filled both positions with finesse and enthusiasm. I am eager for him to be able to fully immerse himself into his role as 1st VP of Beekeeping.

Summer is in full swing, and all the fun activities are returning! SCBA is going back out to the fairs and

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SCBA Member Events August

SCBA Calendar

August 4-14 – SCBA at Sonoma County Fair
August 8 – [General Meeting](#)
August 9 – [Education Committee Meeting](#)
August 13-14 – SCBA at Gravenstein Apple Fair
August 15 – [Beginner Beekeepers Forum](#)
August 19 – SCBA at Sonoma County Children's Museum
August 22 – [Seasoned Beekeepers Forum](#)
August 24 – SCBA at Wednesday Night Market
August 25 – [G4Bs Meeting](#)

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President's Message continued

festivals, in person, and finally we get the chance to celebrate the season and inform people how best to help the bees and the native pollinators. Make sure you read the message from Shannon, our Program Director, to find out about all the exciting events, like the Apple Fair and the Sonoma County Fair, that are happening around the county and how you can help.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate our fantastic cluster leaders for throwing some lovely Summer Picnics in July. It was so great to see everyone getting together, outside again, and we got the chance to meet some of our new members too.

Remember, if you ever have any questions, you can always contact your cluster leader or your bee buddy.

For any other questions about beekeeping, you can write to: Mohammed Ibrahim, our 1st VP of Beekeeping at 1stVP@sonomabees.org.

For questions about gardening for bees you can write to: Ann Gallagher White, our 2nd VP of Gardening at 2ndVP@sonomabees.org.

For questions about volunteering, fundraising or what our association is up to next, you can write to: Shannon Carr, our Program Director, at programdirector@sonomabees.org

For any other questions you can write to me at president@sonomabees.org

Questions like, how can you support SCBA? Well, you can join the Board! We will need to fill the positions of Treasurer and President in 2023. It is a great way to pitch in, find out about what's up with the association, and be part of a great group of people.

You can also:

- Volunteer.
- Sign up for the escrip community card at Oliver's.
- Sign up for Amazon Smile.
- Connect businesses to our Program Director, for sponsorships and donations.
- Ask your friends to join SCBA. (They can be supportive members no matter where they live!)

The work we are doing at SCBA is important, not only for the honeybees, but for all the native pollinators. We are striving to support the bees, the beekeepers, and to educate the public. The more pesticide-free forage we plant, the more it benefits everyone. The

dearth has arrived already. Plant! Plant! Plant! Our bees need us. And be sure to tune in to the General Meeting to hear about how to create bee-feeding gardens during the dearth and beyond. Maybe one day we will be able to say that we have more year-round pollinator habitat than any other county in California!

Don't forget to grab one of our SCBA Pollinator Advocate tee shirts too. They are great to wear whenever you are out and about, representing SCBA. Be proud to be a member of the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association!

Thank you for all your dedication and support.

Carol Ellis, President
president@sonomabees.org

From the Desk of the Program Director

SCBA has been buzzing lately. We have been working hard to increase our presence in our community – both internally and externally.

These last couple months, our amazing cluster coordinators have put on some great picnics, cafes, hives dives, and even a garden tour for their clusters. These special events are great for our SCBA community so we can meet one another, make connections, and have bee buddies. This helps us learn about beekeeping and bee-tending from one another. I strongly encourage you to join in when opportunities with activities arise within your cluster. The educational opportunities are limitless when we get together.



We have been busy in the community, as well. We have formed a partnership with Sonoma County Children's Museum. The 3rd Friday of every month we will be there with representatives or members talking to children about honeybees and their importance to our environment. Friday, August 19th is the day before World Honey Bee Day, and we will have some special activities to celebrate honeybees and beekeepers. If

Continued on next page

Program Director, continued

you want to join, please let me know.

August is going to be extremely busy within Sonoma County. Not only are we at the Children's Museum, but we will also be at the Sonoma County Fair (Aug 4-14), The Gravenstein Apple Fair (Aug 13-14), and Wednesday Night Market (Aug 27). If you have not signed up yet and are interested in helping at any of these events, please contact me. You do not need to know a lot about beekeeping, I guarantee you know more than you think you do, and you definitely know more than the general public. It truly is a lot of fun.

The school year will be starting up soon and our education team is getting things together to head back into the classroom and school gardens to talk with students about honeybees and beekeeping. We are hoping to also sponsor a couple of schools this next year and assist them in creating pollinator gardens on their campuses. With all these Education Program gearing up, we are looking for sponsorships – business, corporate, and individuals, to help support SCBA and our Education Programs. If you know a business that would like to become a sponsor, please connect them with me.

Thank you for all you do for Sonoma County Beekeepers Association, for being a member and supporting our community.

Shannon Carr
Program Director
programdirector@sonomabees.org

How to care for your beehives this time of the season!

*by Mohammed Ibrahim, 1st
Vice President*

Over the last couple of weeks, I did eight beehive inspections between Santa Rosa and Cotati. The conclusion of those inspections was not promising. The dearth season is underway, with the bees and the pollinators going through a stressful time as is everyone on this planet. Interestingly, this year, the colonies' operation and other actions shifted about five to six weeks ahead of the season. Early swarms, early dearth, early robbing,



and hot heat waves made the circumstances even worse. Between climate change and limited habitat, we must be proactive rather than reactive and do our best to help the bees.

First, it is too late to split or requeen your hive (unless the bees chose to do so); there are not a lot of drones being raised around this time (could be different in rich nectar habitat), which puts the virgin queens in a risk of not being well mated going into winter. If you have a weak colony, it is time to combine it with a strong one. If you have a defensive colony, limit your inspections to once every two weeks and keep them short and late in the morning.

I feel bad for the yellow jackets, but we must put those traps out and steer their attention elsewhere. On the other hand, robbing is also underway. Reduce the entrance and hope you have enough guards defending the colony against pests and robbers. If you have a robber screen, it is time to put it on the hive. Ventilation is necessary now; however, too much ventilation could attract robbing and be a gateway to the hive by robbers: secure any gaps and keep the hive with one entrance. Be sure to provide shade and water to your bees as they struggle to cool down the nest to the optimum temperature. Also, give an extra space (under-super) to avoid bee bearding at the hive's entrance during those warm days This is natural to the bees; still, it is disturbing to their operation and makes them vulnerable to yellow-jacket attack. Feeding! Avoid entrance feeding. If you decide to feed, use a frame, or top feeder. I would also be mindful of harvesting honey. Healthy surpluses are great gifts for weaker colonies and give winter feeding insurance.

As we head to wildfire season, please do not underestimate the risk of beekeeping smokers. The use of the beekeeping smoker involves an open flame to ignite a small amount of material inside the smoker, allowing it to smolder and therefore create smoke (and an occasional spark), which is puffed out an opening at the top of the smoker. This is hazardous and can ignite fires. Avoid using smokers or doing inspections during hot, dry, and/or windy periods. Avoids using smokers during any "Red Flag Warning" periods. Make sure to follow all the safety precautions before you do any inspection. Keep water handy, too.

Most importantly, our G4B group is a great resource
Continued on next page

1st VP of Bees, continued

for information and plants for pollinators. It is time to consider a balanced bee population and rich habitats. Hives in the urban areas should do just fine, but in the rural areas, colonies need a lot of attention.

Feel free to email me with questions, advice, or concerns.

Thank you on behalf of the bees!

Mohammed Ibrahim
1stVP@sonomabees.org

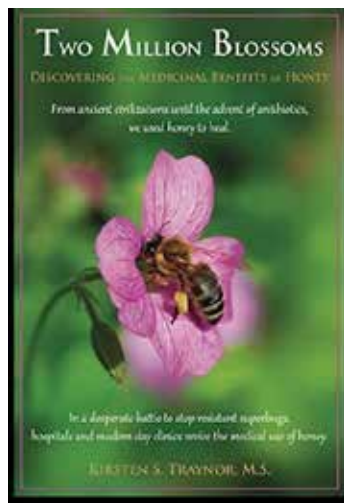
SCBA BOOK NOOK

[Two Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey](#)

By Kirsten S Traynor



Two Million Blossoms explores the medicinal benefits of honey and how the medical community is rediscovering ancient remedies derived from honey. New scientific findings are showing how honey heals chronic wounds, improves memory, minimizes harmful side-effects of cancer treatments. Traynor also discusses simple home remedies where honey is used to help with colds, allergies, coughs and stimulates good intestinal flora. *Two Million Blossoms* will show you the remarkable healing properties of honey.



We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *Two Million Blossoms* is just one of many books about bees, gardening for bees, and products from the hive in our collection. You can view all our books and DVDs available to you at [SCBA-Library](#)). If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at Librarian@sonomabees.org to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.

Summer Hive Advice

By Doug Vincent, owner of Bee Kind Honey

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

After looking into my hives around Sebastopol at the end of June, I felt the need to warn everyone that our summer dearth is underway. The blackberry nectar flow was a bust and hives have already used what little nectar there was to help build up brood. Hive populations exploded during the following three weeks and there was little nectar to support them. There will be NO comb building without feeding.

Do not have your hive open for long periods during inspections. Hives in urban areas should be just ok but the further you are from an urban center, the more help your bees will need.

I started maintenance feeding my hives in June with quart of 1-to-1 syrup per week (fed in the evening). These hives will start CONSUMING what little honey they have. You will see empty cells in the upper corners, around the brood area, that should be full. These strong hives will start robbing weaker hives, so reduce the entrances of any hive not FULL of bees. Do not feed with entrance feeders during summer dearth. Use an inside frame feeder or top feeder. It is safer to feed now rather than later. (Editor's note: The inside feeder I am using to feed a July swarm needed corks in it to keep the bees from drowning. Check how yours is made.)

The drier conditions out in the country will get worse and nectar will become scarce until the coyote bush blooms for 2 weeks in September. Even the hives located near the moisture of the coast could have a slow nectar flow all summer. Last year was dry, but this year is drier.

Will this be our new normal? Time will tell. Take care and have a happy summer.

Honey Extractor Rental

One of the benefits of SCBA membership is access to our honey extractors. We currently have a honey extractor for each cluster as well as one fruit press shared across all regions. Members can find the terms of this rental, as well as the necessary contact information, in the "SCBA Members-Only Info" section of the website.

August Bee Plant of the Month: Crimson Bee Balm

By Elizabeth Newton

A happy hum emanates from a cluster of bright red blooms. Crimson bee balm (*monarda didyma*) is well named. Native to the eastern United States, it is beloved by the pollinators of many species, including hummingbirds. It likes fertile, well-drained soil and can be successfully grown in full sun or part shade, providing two months of successive blooms starting in early summer.

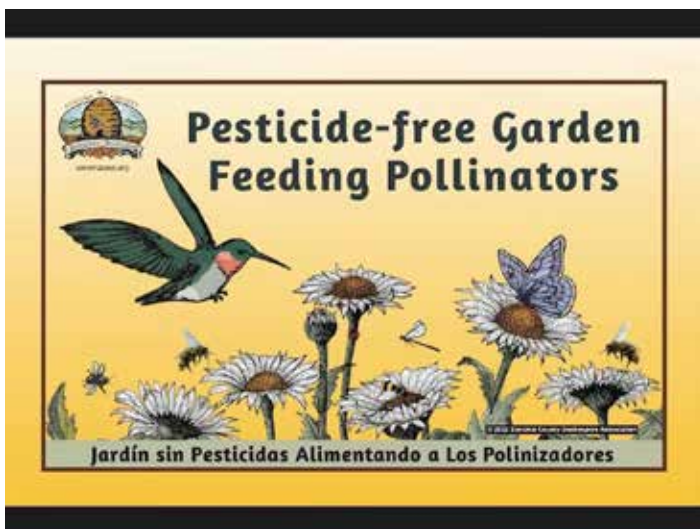
There are many species of bee balm, including many hybrids that occur



under natural conditions. It very easy to propagate by digging up and re-planting clumps of its runners, which closely resemble the root structures of plants in the mint family. As with mint, it tends to be invasive, so care should be taken to thin the plants from time to time to keep them in check and to assure bigger and healthier blooms. In early fall, the seed heads provide food for finches, sparrows, and juncos. The plant goes completely dormant in winter, with no external signs of its existence until late spring.

The leaves of this plant are very fragrant, resembling bergamot. The plant was widely used by several Native American tribes for its anti-septic properties. Its leaves can be added to any of your favorite mixtures of garden grown herb tea.

GARDENING FOR BEES



SCBA's/G4B's new yard sign. Created by Chris Dicker. They will be available for \$15 to the public and \$12 to members. To get yours, email Shannon Carr at programdirector@sonomabees.org

SCBA sets standards for Sebastopol hives

by Ettamarie Peterson

While helping a new beekeeper who lives in Rohnert Park and was having problems with that city's beehive regulations, I investigated the regulations of some other cities. She is working with Rohnert Park City Council to improve its ordinance and wanted some examples. I found that Sebastopol's regulation specifically states that honeybees must be kept in accordance with the best practices as stated by the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association! Click [here](#) to read the code.

I don't know who helped that city write the ordinance, but I was impressed we have such an influence!

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Eric Mussen, Gone but not Forgotten

by *Ettamarie Peterson and Katia Vincent*

It was very sad to learn that on June 3rd Sonoma County Beekeepers Association lost a great friend and teacher. Dr. Eric Mussen was our California Cooperative Extension apiculturist for many years. He retired in 2014 but never really left his job at U.C. Davis, always ready to answer our questions even after his retirement.

We were fortunate to have him almost annually as a speaker at our meetings. His talks were always straight-forward and honest and laced with humor. I remember the year he told us about the new product to fight mites, Check Mite +. This was made with Coumaphos, an organophosphate pesticide that is highly toxic. He told us all the problems. I remember asking him if he would use it and he looked me right in the eyes and said, "No!" This is just one example of his integrity.

Katia Vincent, owner of Beekind Honey, told me the following when she heard of Eric's passing: "Here is what I remember about Eric Mussen. He was a very smart, funny, happy, and serious guy. He always reminded me of Stephen Colbert. I could listen to him talk about bees for hours and I did. The first time I heard the word neonicotinoids was from Eric Mussen. Back in 2005 he called it the culprit of the bee crash (colony collapse) of 2004-2005. True that! Eric performed well for UC Davis as its Honeybee expert and entomologist and gave beyond the call of duty. He seemed to really enjoy visits to bee clubs, and he greatly supported our efforts to create a Bee Symposium by helping us find excellent speakers. He himself was one of our very first speakers. He truly admired Serge Labesque's great passion for the bees and his unique ideas and made attempts to introduce them to a very conventional beekeeping industry.

"As a founding member of the Western Apicultural Society, he supported a diverse group of beekeepers and worked hard to give them a speaking platform and have some fun coming together during those yearly gatherings. I remember fondly our trip to the big island of Hawaii to attend a WAS convention. That was epic! Eric Mussen has been greatly missed since his retirement and now he will be missed with some sadness. We will always remember him as a brilliant beekeeping teacher who educated so many of us."

In his obituary, Kathy Keatley Garvey wrote this about memorial donations:

Family and friends suggest memorial contributions be made to the California State 4-H Beekeeping Program, with a note, "Eric Mussen Memorial Fund." Mary Ciriceillo, director of development for the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, said checks may be made out to the California 4-H Foundation and mailed to:

California 4-H Foundation
Attn: Development Services (Eric Mussen Memorial Fund, California State 4-H Beekeeping Program)
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618

Or, online donations may be made to the California State 4-H Beekeeping Program by accessing the main donor page at <https://bit.ly/3RUqHFC> and then clicking on the drop-down menu to "Beekeeping Program Scholarship."

Looking through my old photos I found one that puts a smile on my face remembering how entertaining his talks were. Thea Vierling is enjoying his humor. I



took the photo the day some of us from SCBA visited UC Davis in the Laidlaw Lab where Eric worked.

CLUSTER NEWS

South Cluster Picnic

by Rachel Parker

Under sunny skies, and with competing events nearby, a handful of South Cluster beekeeping fans gathered at Ettamarie Peterson's home on Saturday July 23 to share salads, soft drinks, and stories of their hives' developments. Our newest members had challenges they'd overcome – from a queen failure to questions of managing a custom hive architecture. Veteran beekeepers agreed that honey production and swarm patterns have been off this year compared to years past.

Thanks, Ettamarie for your enduring support of South Cluster beekeepers!

East Cluster Happenings

Tripp, Mariah, and I are your East Cluster Coordinators as of July! We are finding our way with tremendous positive assistance from so many in East Cluster, THANK YOU. What a great community and we look forward to building on what others have done in the past. Bee Cafe's are up and running, (first Saturday of the month at Flatbed Farms) communication is happening (newsletter), education workshops (see below) are being planned and people hopefully are connecting not just in their region but throughout Sonoma Valley. Let's keep creating a BUZZ!

June East Cluster Report

By Bonney Philbin

Around 10 people gathered at Flat Bed Farms for our first Bee Cafe Saturday June 4th. Thea had a hand-out outlining the different jobs that worker honeybees have depending on their age. We also discussed the history of hives at Flat Bed Farms and whether the property would be a great property for bees now? Lots of ideas were thrown into the hat, which offered an interesting discussion of resources.

East Cluster ramped up Hive Dives and had several in June, so newer members could attend and learn and more experienced members acted as mentors and teachers.

From Darrel Jones

My bees have got me again. I had two hives swarm on two separate days just as I was setting up to go into them and look for queen cells. I literally had my bucket, jacket and gloves out when they went. Of course, they were huge swarms and, of course, they went 40 feet up into our neighbors' trees. That I why I always like to share honey with my immediate neigh-



Swarm on nandina bush -- Photo by Darrel Jones

ors. Those two swarms found other homes.

I then had a secondary swarm out of one of the hives less than a week later. I leave the hive alone for a week or two after a swarm because I've damaged queen cells trying to inspect it after a swarm. I was able to collect that one from the middle of a nandina bush. I think Christine told me about this trick of putting drawn comb into the bush and letting the bees crawl onto it before carefully removing them and putting them into the swarm box. I hang them with a little tie wire and lean them against the branch. There are two frames of drawn comb in this bush. Hopefully the queen will mate. I'll check her in a couple weeks.

On another note, I have a bag of hive and frame scrapings that contain propolis, wax and wood shavings. I know some people extract the propolis for homeopathic medical use. If anyone wants it, message me and I can leave the bag on the front porch for you to pick up.

July East Cluster Meet Up

By Tripp Hunter

Saturday, July 2 saw the second East Cluster 'Meet-Up' held at Flatbed Farm on Highway 12 near Glen

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From previous page

Ellen. This beautiful spot is close to the border of Sonoma Valley Regional Park, and with its farm stand pantry of unique items has a beautiful garden of flowers and vegetables tended by Garden Manager (and budding beekeeper) Hayley Cutri. Our thanks to Hayley and to the Flatbed Farm owners for allowing us a portion of their space. It's the hope we can continue there on many Saturdays in the future.

This gathering was planned as a Bee Café on the subject of "What's in My Toolkit?" East beekeeper Lauri Dorman, who led this topic for us prior to Covid, kicked things off and turned them over to Thea Vierling, who took a deeper dive into the subject. For an experienced beekeeper like Thea, there was quite an array of items, of which she highlighted the most important. The queen-marking pens triggered a spontaneous conversation about distinguishing the age of your queen based on pen color, particularly when replacement might be needed, and in relation to a serious onset of varroa mite. As usual with beekeepers,

there were several good questions with a number of answers put forward, and contributions by beekeepers of all experience levels.

Thea also had specimens of dead bees with deformed wing virus – DWV, a condition that can occur when a honeybee larva becomes infected with a varroa mite larva – nice to view, for those who previously never had (and tying together queen-marking pens and varroa infection control). A few members brought great items to share: Connie's almond coffee cake, Asian poppy seeds for sowing this fall, wild turkey feathers that make excellent bee brushes. To conclude, we had fun with an auction that somehow kept extending with useful items and take-aways for the winners.

Thanks to all who attended. The next Bee Café is planned for Saturday, August 6 when Susan Simmons will present "Going into Fall," with a possible hive dive. Location to be determined, if so.

Upcoming East Cluster Meet Ups:

Below is a tentative Calendar of Events scheduled for the first Saturday of the month through 2022. We hope to continue these events at Flatbed Farms at 11:00, however, a few may include a hive dive. An e-blast will be sent prior to the event posting the location. Some events may be open to any number such as at Flatbed Farms, and some may require registration due to limited space.

8/6/2022	Susan Simmons	Going into Fall Lang & Double Deep hive	Location: TBD In Glen Ellen
9/3/2022	Lizanne Pastore	Going into Fall (Winter)	Location: Flatbed Farms
10/1/2022	Erin Grey	Collecting Honey & Craft Demonstration with Hive Dive	Location: TBD in Kenwood
11/5/2022	Lynn Koch	Garden for Spring Plan for Pollinators	Location: TBD in Kenwood
12/3/2022	Christine Kurtz	Bee Diseases	Location: TBD in Kenwood

These Events will continue into 2023 with a schedule produced towards the end of the year. If you are interested in a topic or even better, interested in presenting or hosting, please contact me, bonney.philbin@gmail.com.

We hope you all are having a wonderful summer and your hives are keeping you happy and engaged!

Tripp, Mariah, Bonney
eastcluster@sonomabees.org

ALTERNATIVE HIVES

The standard hive in Sonoma County is the Langstroth Hive, but there are many other styles of hives available to beekeepers including Top-Bar Hives, Warre Hive, Barrel and Log hives (when a swarm chooses a more “natural” hive on their own). These are just a few of the “Alternative Hives” our community uses and cares for.

Many of our members are interested in Alternative Hives. It could just be a fascination and a desire to learn about them, or an interest in participating in different styles of beekeeping. For those interested in learning more about Alternative Hives in SCBA, we have an Alternative Hives group, for which we are looking for a coordinator who can organize Alternative Hive Dives and contribute to our Facebook group “Alternative Hives – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association.”

If you are interested in leading this group and organizing educational opportunities around beekeeping with Alternative Hives contact our Program Director, Shannon, at programdirector@sonomabees.org.

East Cluster beekeepers had Sam Comfort far right work with Thea Vierling, Lizanne Pastore, and Jim Spencer on a top bar hive.



Thea Vierling working her "bee thinking" hive. -- Photo by Shannon Carr



South Cluster's picnic on July 23. Photo by Tim Parker



In July SCBA members helped spread the word about pollinators and the need for careful pesticide use at the Petaluma Art and Garden Festival. -- Photo by Shannon Carr

Miso Magic!

Friends with apple trees tell me that their fruit is already ripe and falling. So, here is a recipe that I'd planned for September, but will offer now: Apple Miso Honey cake.

I can't take any credit for this recipe. A few years back, my husband, Tim, found this recipe by Sarit Packer and Itamar Srulovich who run London's Honey & Co. restaurant, in the Hong Kong edition of the *Financial Times*. He's adapted the measurements and temperatures to U.S. standards, and recently double-checked his math (tasters agree that the result is delicious).

The recipe uses yeast as the rising agent; don't be nervous about that: The yeast adds a warm note that compliments the miso. Unlike a bread, it doesn't require hours of proofing. And it really does work.

Apple Miso Honey Cake

By Sarit Packer & Itamar Srulovich

INGREDIENTS

For the caramelised apples

- 3 tbsp butter
- 2 large crisp green apples, peeled, quartered, cored and cut into chunks 450 to 500g
- ¼ cup honey
- * I like to add about 2 tsp fresh ginger (depending on how spicy the ginger is)

For the cake batter

- 1 stick plus 2 tbsp butter at room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tsp light miso paste (preferably white, but light orange also works well)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp dried active yeast
- 2 tbsp whisky or calvados (optional)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup rolled oats
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- Pinch of salt
- All the cooked apples (as per instructions above)

Miso -- a soy-based paste -- might also be unfamiliar to many cooks. You can find miso at Oliver's and Whole Foods in the cool foods sections. If you're not used to cooking with miso, no worries, it's like adding a sort of natural stock cube, it gives a good, tasty base note to everything you make. As Itamar said in the article:

I am a believer now. The crunch of the oats, the caramelised apples -- juicy, sweet and tart, melting into a light buttery sponge that is magically kept on the edge of sweetness -- you wouldn't know it's miso that does it.

Personally, I find the miso butterscotch topping gilding the lily. This cake needs no adornment but, seeing as you've already opened the miso . . . And if you're like me, ice cream or whipped cream work well too (with or without the sauce).

For the miso-butterscotch sauce

- 3 tbsp butter
- 2 tsp honey
- 2 tsp miso paste
- ½ cup turbinado sugar (regular brown sugar works, as well)
- ½ pint heavy cream double cream
- 1 tbsp whisky or calvados (optional)

TO MAKE THE CAKE

Heat the butter in a frying pan on a medium-high heat. Once it has melted add all the apples (and fresh ginger if using) and cook until they start to color all over, flipping every 20 seconds or so. The whole process will take about five minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the honey. Set aside until you make the cake batter.

Lightly butter and flour a 7-inch cake tin (9 inches will work for a thinner cake) and line the bottom with parchment. Heat the oven to 350F on convection.

Place the butter with the powdered sugar, lemon zest and miso in a food processor and blitz until it becomes creamy.

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Apple Miso Honey Cake, Continued

Mix the eggs with the dried yeast and whisky (if using) and add in a slow steady stream to the butter until it is all combined.

Add the flour, half the oats, ground ginger and salt. Mix well.

Fold all the cooked apples and the juice they produced into the cake batter, and transfer to the cake tin. (Keep the pan to one side to make the sauce to avoid creating more washing up.)

Rest for 10-15 minutes.

Sprinkle remaining oats on top of the cake.

Place in the pre-heated oven and bake for 20 minutes. Then rotate and bake for another 10 to 15

minutes until the cake feels nice and bouncy. Remove and cool in the tin for 15 to 20 minutes. Using a knife, separate the cake from the tin and turn out on a rack to continue cooling. When cool, place on a serving platter.

The Miso-Butterscotch Sauce

To make the butterscotch sauce, return the frying pan to a medium-high heat and add the butter, honey, miso and sugar. Mix well with a wooden spoon and stir constantly until the sugar melts and it all comes together to form a smooth caramel. Continue cooking for a couple of minutes until it turns to a lovely shade of amber.

Remove from the heat and continue stirring while adding the cream in a steady stream. Finally, add the whisky and stir to combine.

You can serve the sauce warm, or just set it aside until you are ready and carefully rewarm it before serving. But do not put it in the fridge as it may get too firm.



Apple Miso Honey Cake. -- Photo by Tim Parker

SCBA PHOTO GALLERY

The Monthly Extractor is dedicating space to members' photos from their apiary or garden, with captions. Please note, because *The Monthly Extractor* is publicly published, if you send photos featuring people (whether adults, children, or teens), we need to have their consent. Email written consent should do the job. Send photos to editor@sonomabees.org

AUGUST BLOOMS by EttaMarie Peterson



Bees covering the sedum flowers.



Bees are loving Shannon Carr's artichokes!



Look at that pollen!



Shannon Carr captured this busy gal on lavender!

SCBA Business Members, Donors, and Sponsors

SCBA Business Members

Anderson Ranch Honey
Darius Anderson
info@andersonranch.com

Baker Lane Vineyards
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Bee Conscious Removal
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Beekind Honey and
Beekeeping Supply
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Bees N Blooms
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Buzz Off Honey
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Heart to Heart
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K2 Ranch and Vineyards
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Kate Gomes Real Estate, Inc.
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Marin Coastal Bee Co.
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Ryan Teurfs Designs
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Justin Zimmerman
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Wild Wills Honey
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Habitat Sponsors

Bees find forage in all kinds of environments -- from pollinator gardens to hedgerows of blooming plants, to meadows of wildflowers, to tree canopies. Your organization can be part of the effort to support the bees. To become a habitat sponsor, click here www.sonomabees.org/donate

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Hedgerow -- \$1000

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